

Our country needs to take a new direction on energy policy. For far too long we have been dependent on foreign oil to meet our energy needs. This dependence threatens our security, hurts our economy, and is costing Pennsylvania's families more and more at the pump. Congressman Altmire supports policies that will reduce gas prices, invest in alternative sources of energy such as nuclear and coal, and increase our energy independence.

### **Increase Domestic Oil Production**

Congressman Altmire supports increasing the domestic production of oil and voted to open up over 500 million acres for drilling by ending the current moratorium on oil and gas leasing of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). This is the largest single expansion of drilling in U.S. history and permits access to an estimated 80 billion barrels of oil and over 400 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. For more information, see [ [House Votes to Lift Moratorium on Off-Shore Drilling](#) ].

### **Advance Nuclear and Coal Technologies**

Western Pennsylvania's vast coal resources and strong nuclear industry are a tremendous source of economic growth for our region and investment in them will make America more energy independent. Congressman Altmire supports the construction of new nuclear reactors and additional funding for clean coal technologies, such as carbon capture and sequestration. In 2009, Congressman Altmire advocated that Westinghouse, a western Pennsylvania company, receive funding through the Nuclear Power 2010 Program. This will help our region continue to lead the nuclear energy industry. For more information, see [ [Altmire Works to Ensure Western Pennsylvania Will Have a Lead Role in Developing Nuclear Energy](#).

]

—

### **Opposition to Flawed Cap and Trade Proposal**

Congressman Altmire voted against the American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454), because this legislation did not do enough to lower energy costs for American families and end our nation's addiction to foreign oil. Instead of establishing a flawed cap-and-trade system, Congressman Altmire supports focusing on cultivating our nation's domestic energy resources and investing in alternative energies, including nuclear energy and clean coal, that will put America on a path to energy independence. For more information, see: [ [Altmire Statement on Cap and Trade Legislation](#)

].

### **Invest in Renewable Energy**

Congressman Altmire believes that one way our country can reduce our dependence on foreign oil is through incentives that encourage the use and production of renewable energy. He supports tax breaks for American companies that develop new, innovative energy efficient, and renewable technologies that can help put our country on a path toward energy independence. On October 3, 2008, over \$17 billion in tax incentives were signed into law to encourage the production of wind and solar technologies and the construction of energy-efficient buildings and homes. These investments will help create new American jobs and strengthen our economy.

### **End Excessive Speculation**

A 2006 non-partisan report found that \$20 to \$30 of the price of oil was caused by excessive speculation or manipulation. Reforms should be implemented to close the “Enron Loophole,” which has led to the manipulation and excessive speculation in unregulated energy commodity markets. On June 26, 2008, Congressman Altmire voted in favor of the Energy Markets Emergency Act (H.R. 6377) to investigate and punish oil speculators who are driving up oil prices.

### **Reduce Demand through Higher Car Fuel Efficiency**

Last year, Congress passed the first increase in fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks in 30 years, increasing the required average fuel economy from 27 to 35 miles per gallon. When fully implemented, these provisions will save the average American up to \$1,000 a year at the pump and reduce oil consumption by 4 million barrels a day. Congressman Altmire voted in favor of the Energy Independence and Security Act (H.R. 6), which was signed into law on December 19, 2007.